



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

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Autumn Has Begun, So When Does It Usually Cool Off?

Astronomically speaking autumn began at 4:02 PM EDT Friday September 22, but across West Central and Southwest Florida the temperatures will remain anything but fall-like. We will continue to have rather high humidity with dew points in the middle 60s to middle 70s, along with high temperatures in the mid 80s to lower 90s.

During most years we do not see the first shot of cooler drier air until the middle of October, albeit usually is rather short lived lasting only a day or two, with the real cool down not occurring until November. A good way to examine the timing of the first cool down is by looking at overnight low temperatures. The overnight low temperatures are highly dependent on a few factors, not the least being the amount of moisture in the air near the ground measured by looking at the dew point, the amount of cloud cover, and winds. In general overnight low temperatures cannot fall below the dew point, therefore if the dew points are still in the middle 60s to middle 70s as they are now, then the overnight low temperatures will most likely also be in the mid 60s to mid 70s unless a cool front moves through during the night. So to see when the first cool front moves across the region we'll take a look at the dates when low temperatures fall below different thresholds at some locations.

Examining the tables below we do see that the average time of the first real cool front appears to be during mid-October. This is when temperatures generally fall into the mid 50s across inland portions of the Nature Coast and below 60 degrees elsewhere across West Central and Southwest Florida. The only exception is near the coast where the water keeps temperatures higher and these areas take longer to fall below 60 degrees, as seen at St. Petersburg.

DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 60 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

LOCATION	EARLIEST	LATEST	AVERAGE	LAST YEAR	RECORDS BEGAN
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	AUG 27 1969	OCT 25 1959	SEP 27	OCT 10	1956
INVERNESS 3 SE	SEP 09 1997	OCT 25 1959	OCT 06	OCT 20	1948
BUSHNELL 1 E	SEP 09 1997	NOV 03 1969	OCT 06	OCT 10	1948
BROOKSVILLE	SEP 09 1997	NOV 04 1900	OCT 07	OCT 10	1892
ST LEO	SEP 14 2001	NOV 08 1919	OCT 11	OCT 10	1895
TARPON SPRINGS	SEP 19 1981*	NOV 15 1919	OCT 12	OCT 22	1892
TAMPA	SEP 19 1981	NOV 15 1919	OCT 17	OCT 22	1890
ST PETERSBURG	OCT 01 1920	DEC 04 1986	OCT 28	NOV 20	1914
PLANT CITY	SEP 15 1918	NOV 14 2015	OCT 11	OCT 22	1893
LAKELAND	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 2015*	OCT 16	OCT 22	1923
BARTOW	SEP 16 1913	NOV 14 1946	OCT 14	OCT 22	1892
WINTER HAVEN	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 2015*	OCT 18	OCT 22	1941
MOUNTAIN LAKE	SEP 19 1981	NOV 04 2007*	OCT 11	OCT 21	1935
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	SEP 20 1981	NOV 23 2015	OCT 15	OCT 22	1911
MYAKKA RIVER ST PK	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 2015	OCT 10	OCT 22	1956
WAUCHULA 2 N	SEP 19 1981	NOV 23 2015	OCT 14	OCT 22	1933
ARCADIA	SEP 16 1962	NOV 19 1911	OCT 11	OCT 21	1901
ARCHBOLD BIO STN	SEP 08 1997	NOV 04 2007	OCT 06	OCT 21	1969
VENICE	SEP 27 1956	NOV 23 2015	OCT 18	OCT 22	1956
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	OCT 02 2001*	NOV 23 2015	OCT 21	OCT 23	1911
FORT MYERS	OCT 01 1920*	DEC 03 1986	OCT 26	OCT 23	1902

DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 55 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

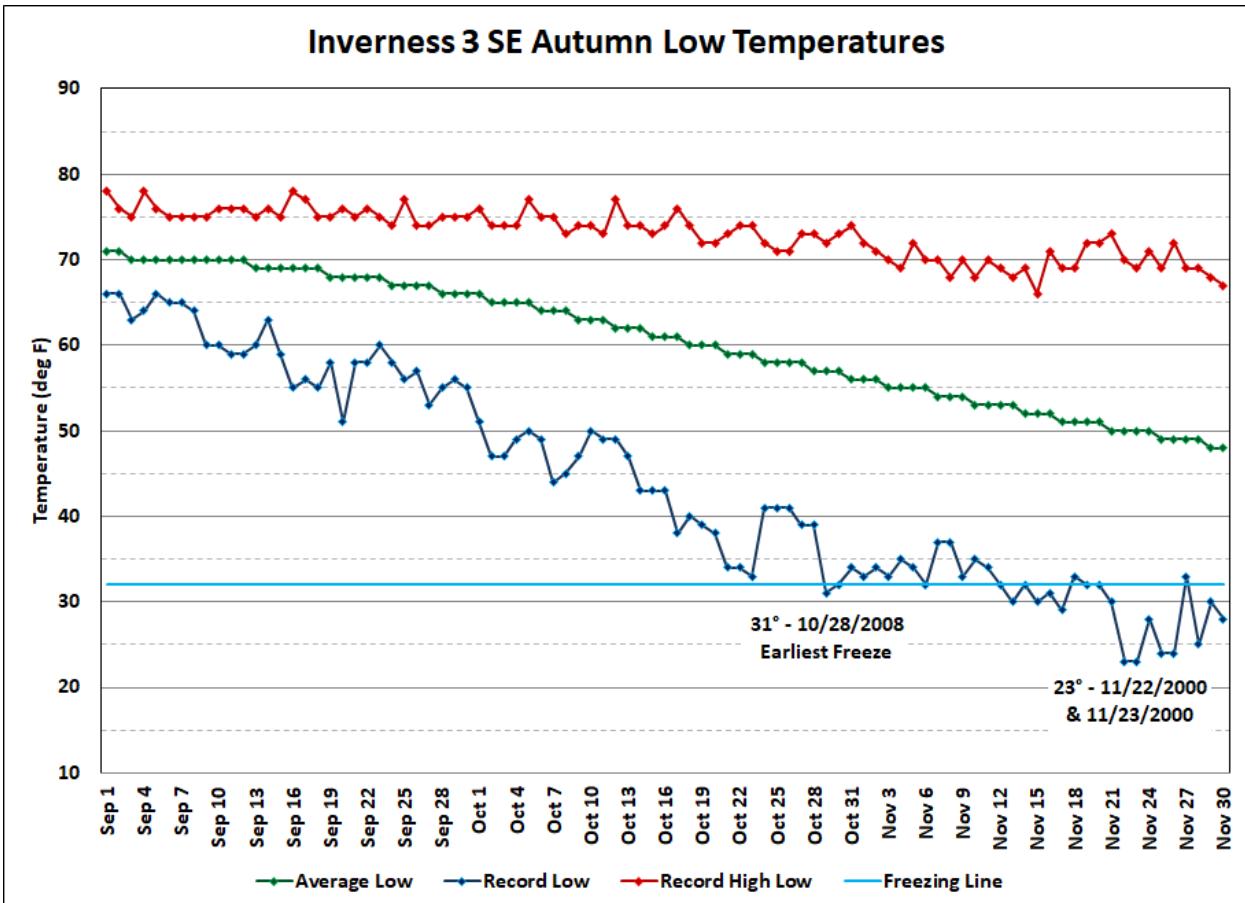
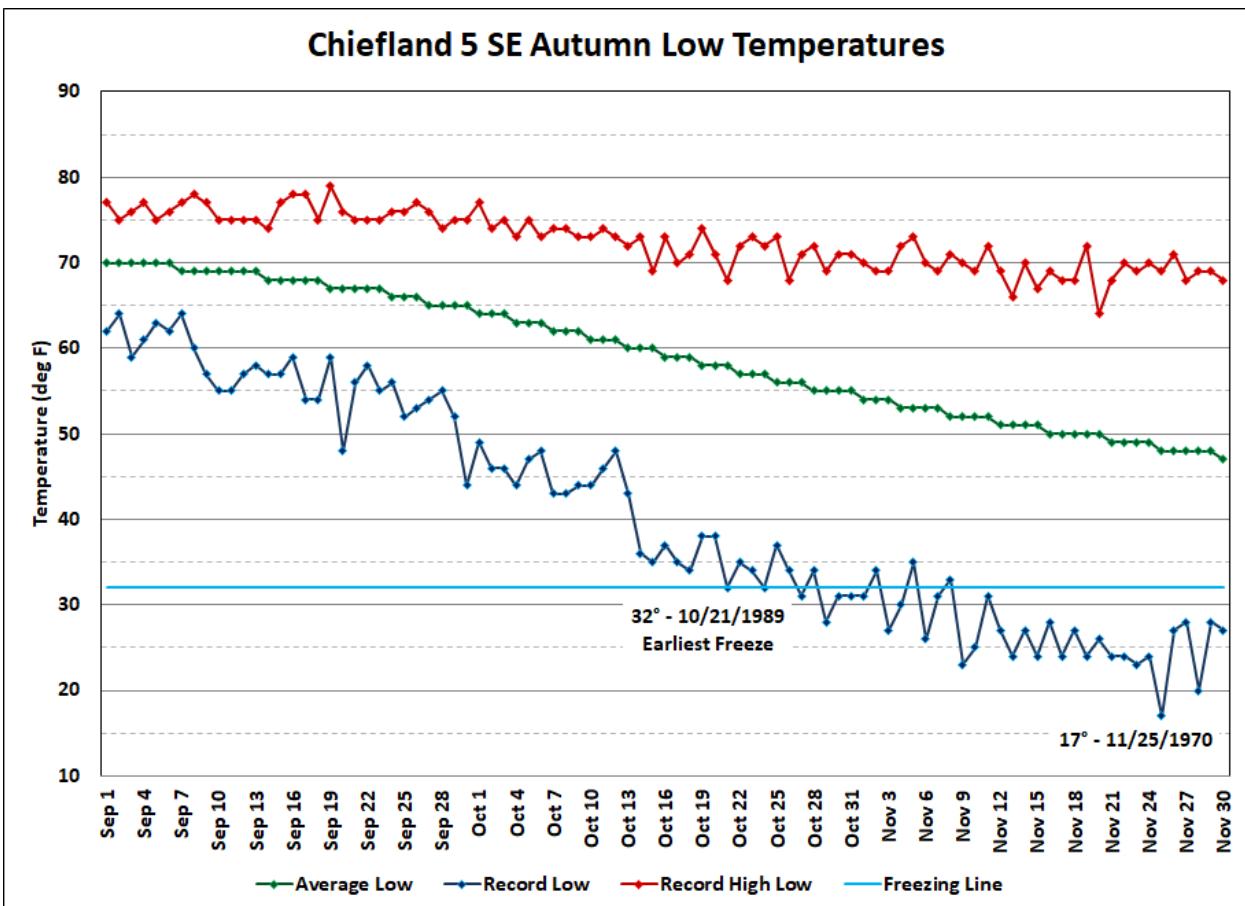
LOCATION	EARLIEST	LATEST	AVERAGE	LAST YEAR	RECORDS BEGAN
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	SEP 10 1963	OCT 27 1994	OCT 07	OCT 22	1956
INVERNESS 3 SE	SEP 16 1956	NOV 04 1985*	OCT 15	OCT 22	1948
BUSHNELL 1 E	SEP 27 1956	NOV 14 2015	OCT 15	OCT 22	1948
BROOKSVILLE	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 1946	OCT 18	OCT 20	1892
ST LEO	SEP 19 1981	NOV 15 1919	OCT 20	OCT 22	1895
TARPON SPRINGS	SEP 20 1981	NOV 25 1922	OCT 22	OCT 23	1892
TAMPA	SEP 22 1897	NOV 25 1948*	OCT 27	OCT 23	1890
ST PETERSBURG	OCT 01 1920	DEC 15 1998*	NOV 08	NOV 20	1914
PLANT CITY	SEP 20 1981	NOV 23 2015	OCT 20	OCT 22	1893
LAKELAND	OCT 02 2011	NOV 25 1948	OCT 25	OCT 22	1923
BARTOW	SEP 24 1916	NOV 25 1922	OCT 23	OCT 23	1892
WINTER HAVEN	OCT 04 1974	DEC 03 1986	OCT 27	OCT 23	1941
MOUNTAIN LAKE	SEP 21 1938	NOV 22 2015	OCT 21	OCT 22	1935
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	OCT 01 1920	NOV 30 1948	OCT 27	OCT 23	1911
MYAKKA RIVER ST PK	OCT 02 1984	NOV 23 2015	OCT 23	OCT 22	1956
WAUCHULA 2 N	SEP 27 1956	NOV 23 2015	OCT 24	OCT 23	1933
ARCADIA	OCT 01 1920	DEC 04 1986	OCT 24	OCT 22	1901
ARCHBOLD BIO STN	SEP 29 2006	DEC 03 1986	OCT 20	OCT 23	1969
VENICE	OCT 03 1974	DEC 03 1986	OCT 29	OCT 23	1956
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	OCT 10 2000	DEC 05 1946	NOV 01	OCT 23	1911
FORT MYERS	OCT 01 1920	DEC 11 1994	NOV 04	NOV 17	1902

DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

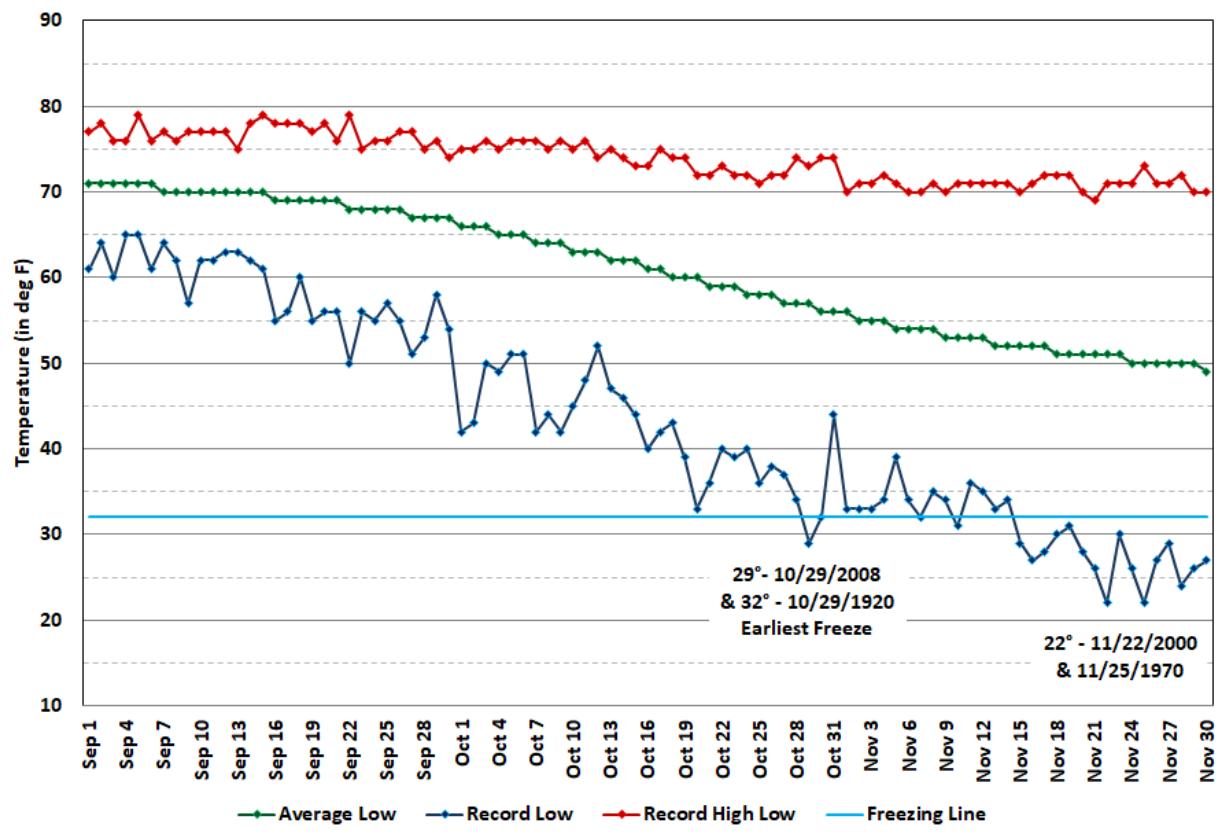
LOCATION	EARLIEST	LATEST	AVERAGE	LAST YEAR	RECORDS BEGAN
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	SEP 20 1981	NOV 14 2015	OCT 14	OCT 22	1956
INVERNESS 3 SE	SEP 27 1991	NOV 23 2015	OCT 23	OCT 22	1948
BUSHNELL 1 E	OCT 02 2011*	NOV 14 2015*	OCT 23	OCT 22	1948
BROOKSVILLE	SEP 22 1897	DEC 04 1905	OCT 27	OCT 22	1892
ST LEO	SEP 22 1897	NOV 30 1958	OCT 31	NOV 20	1895
TARPON SPRINGS	OCT 01 1920	DEC 05 1919	NOV 02	NOV 20	1892
TAMPA	OCT 11 1906	DEC 15 1998*	NOV 07	NOV 20	1890
ST PETERSBURG	OCT 17 1943	JAN 07 2017	NOV 20	JAN 07	1914
PLANT CITY	OCT 04 1929	NOV 25 1948	OCT 28	NOV 17	1893
LAKELAND	OCT 10 2000	DEC 11 1958	NOV 04	NOV 17	1923
BARTOW	OCT 01 1920	DEC 16 1998	OCT 31	OCT 23	1892
WINTER HAVEN	OCT 08 2000	DEC 12 1994	NOV 04	NOV 20	1941
MOUNTAIN LAKE	OCT 08 1987	DEC 05 1946	OCT 30	OCT 23	1935
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	OCT 02 1920	DEC 26 1948	NOV 06	NOV 20	1911
MYAKKA RIVER ST PK	OCT 08 1987	DEC 04 1986	NOV 01	OCT 23	1956
WAUCHULA 2 N	OCT 10 2000	DEC 04 1986	NOV 01	OCT 23	1933
ARCADIA	OCT 01 1920	DEC 12 1994	NOV 01	OCT 23	1901
ARCHBOLD BIO STN	OCT 08 2010	DEC 19 2015	OCT 30	OCT 23	1969
VENICE	OCT 14 1977	DEC 19 2015	NOV 10	NOV 20	1956
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	OCT 14 1977	JAN 02 1987	NOV 07	NOV 21	1911
FORT MYERS	OCT 18 1977	JAN 16 1972	NOV 18	NOV 21	1902

* LAST OF MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES

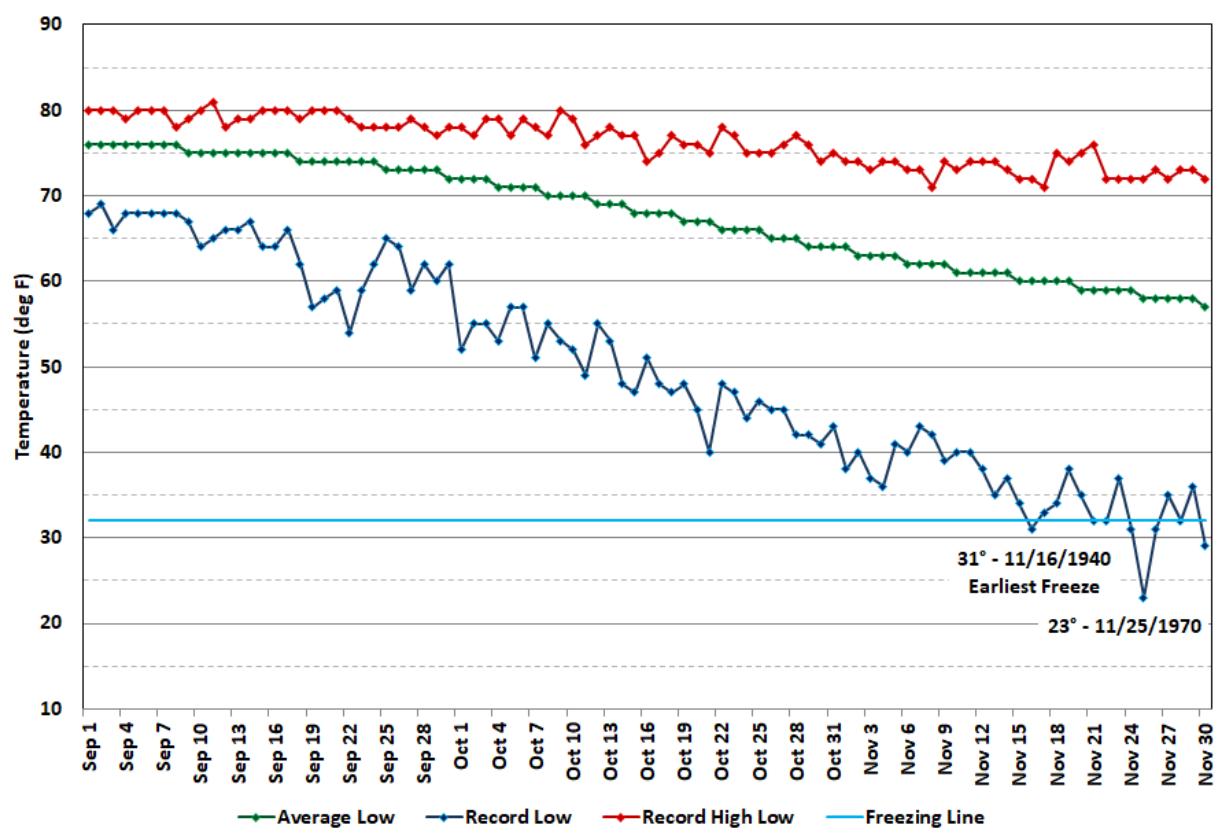
Another way to look at when it may cool down is to take a look at the graphs of the average (based on 1981-2010 Normals) and record low temperatures during the autumn at a few sites across the region. We can see from the graphs below that during some years the first cool down has occurred as early as mid-September when temperatures have fallen into the upper 40s across northern portions of the Nature Coast to the lower 60s south. However, looking at the average lows we see that for the most part it takes until November before low temperatures fall into the mid 50s north to lower 60s south on a consistent basis. Also on these graphs we can see that on a few rare occasions there has been a freeze across portions of the Nature Coast during the second half of October, with areas further south during November.

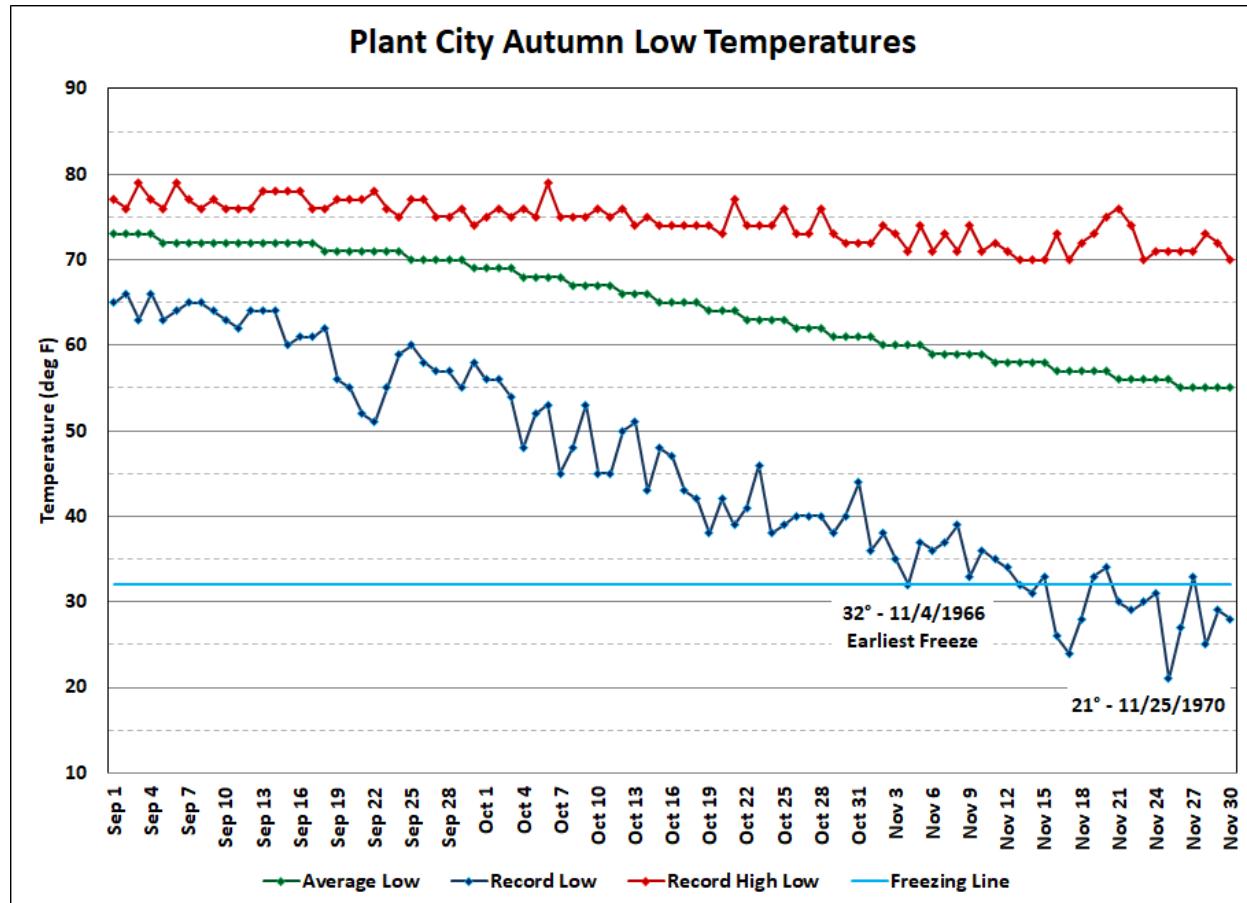
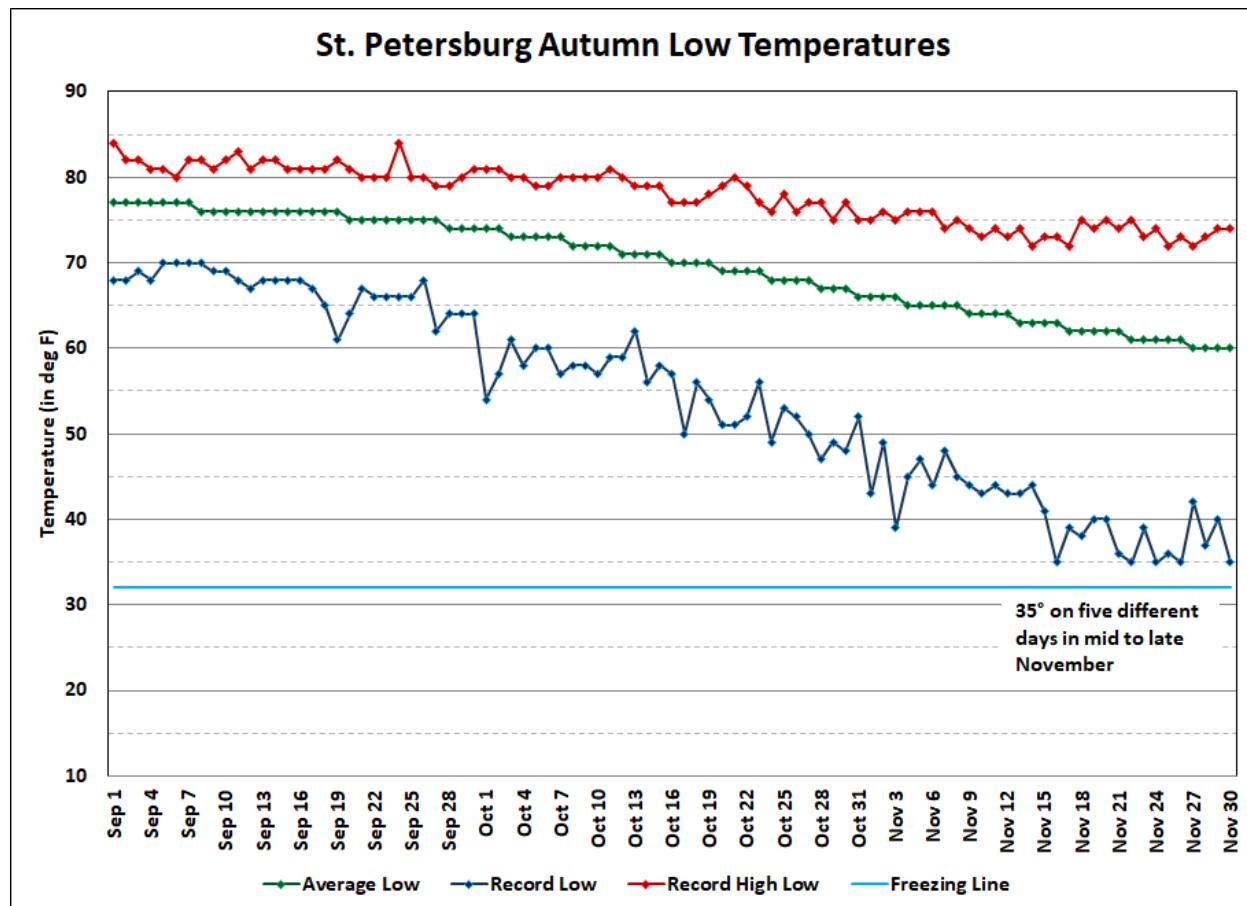


Brooksville Area Autumn Low Temperatures

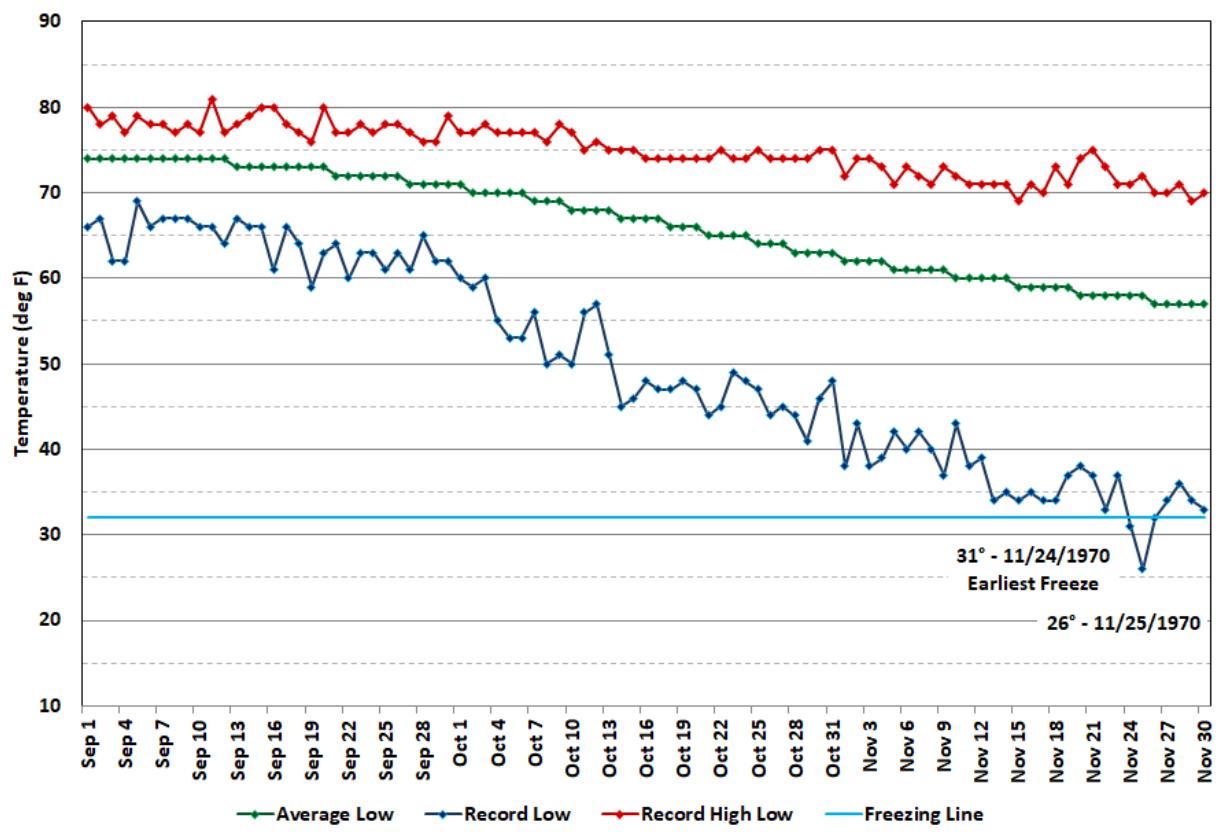


Tampa Autumn Low Temperatures

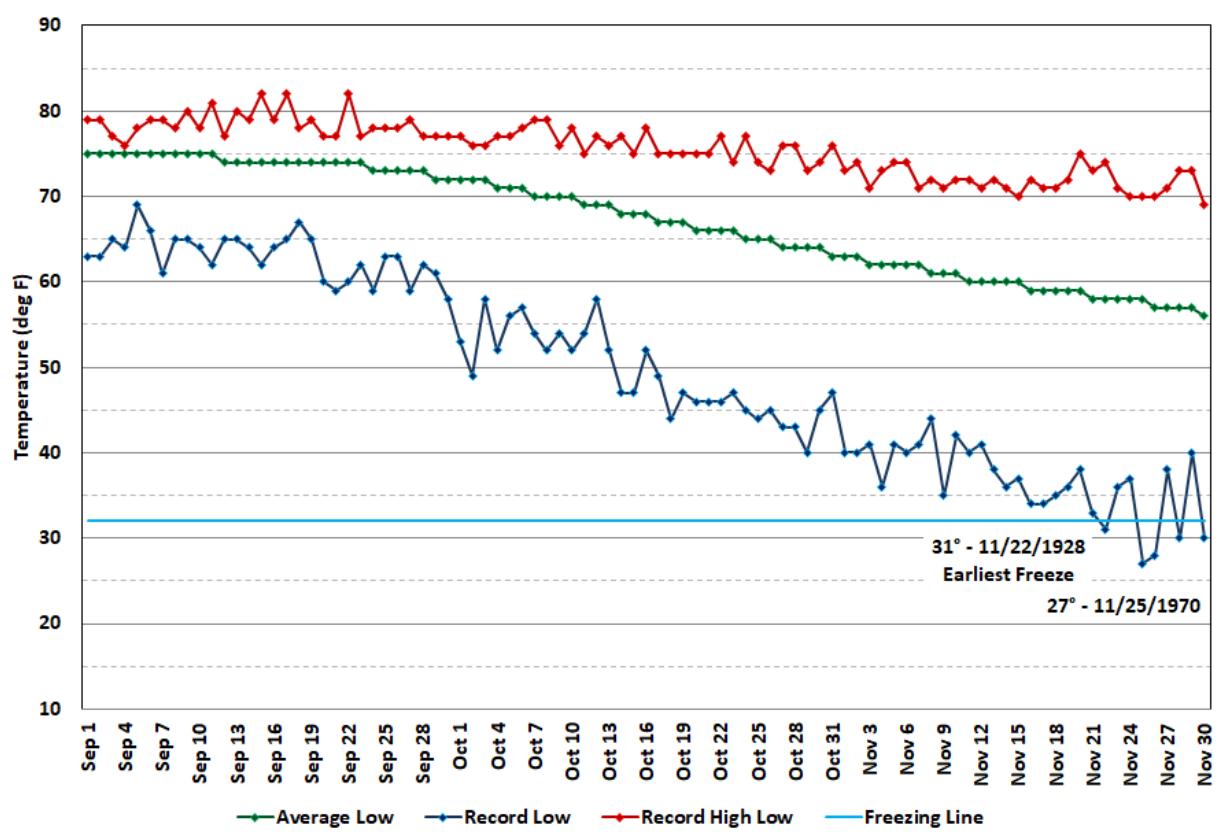


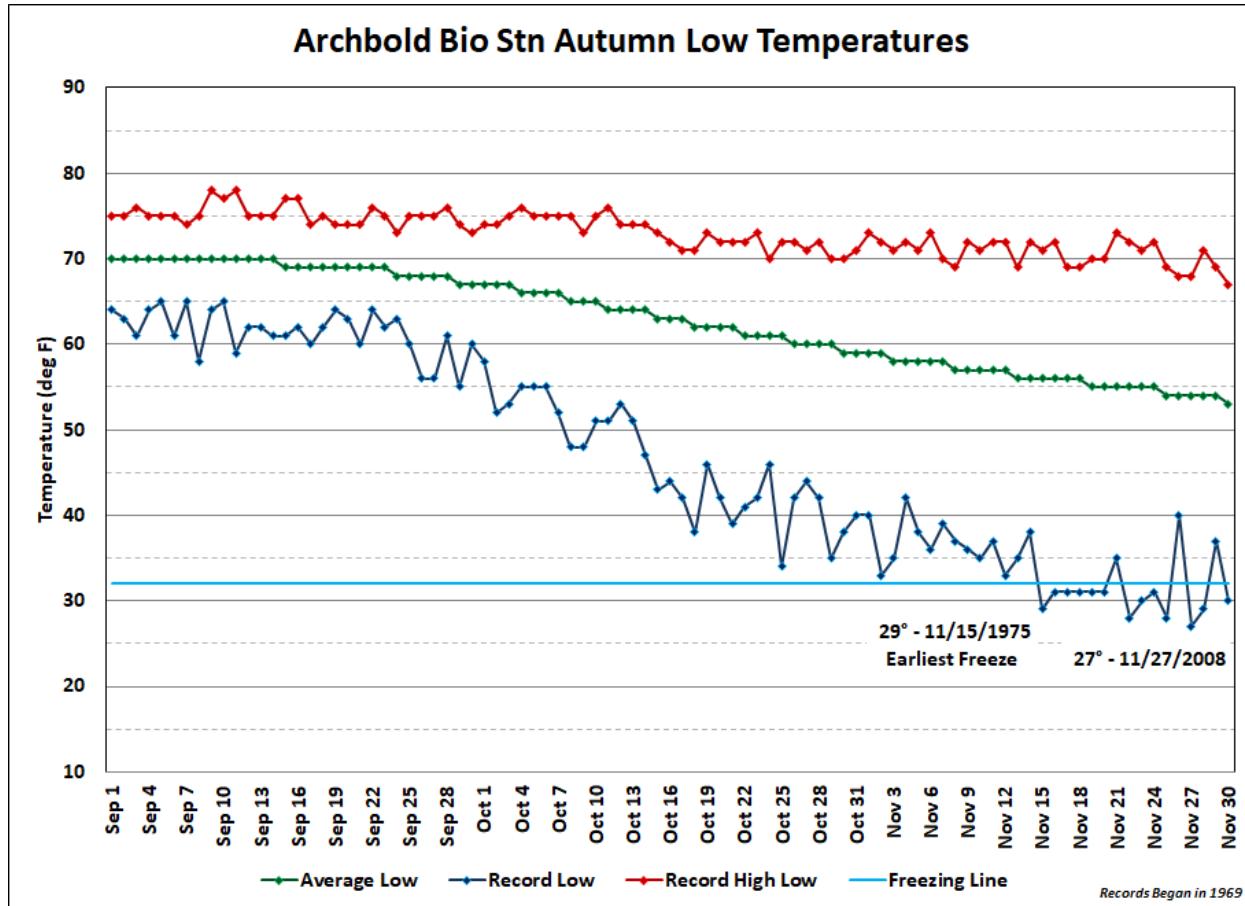
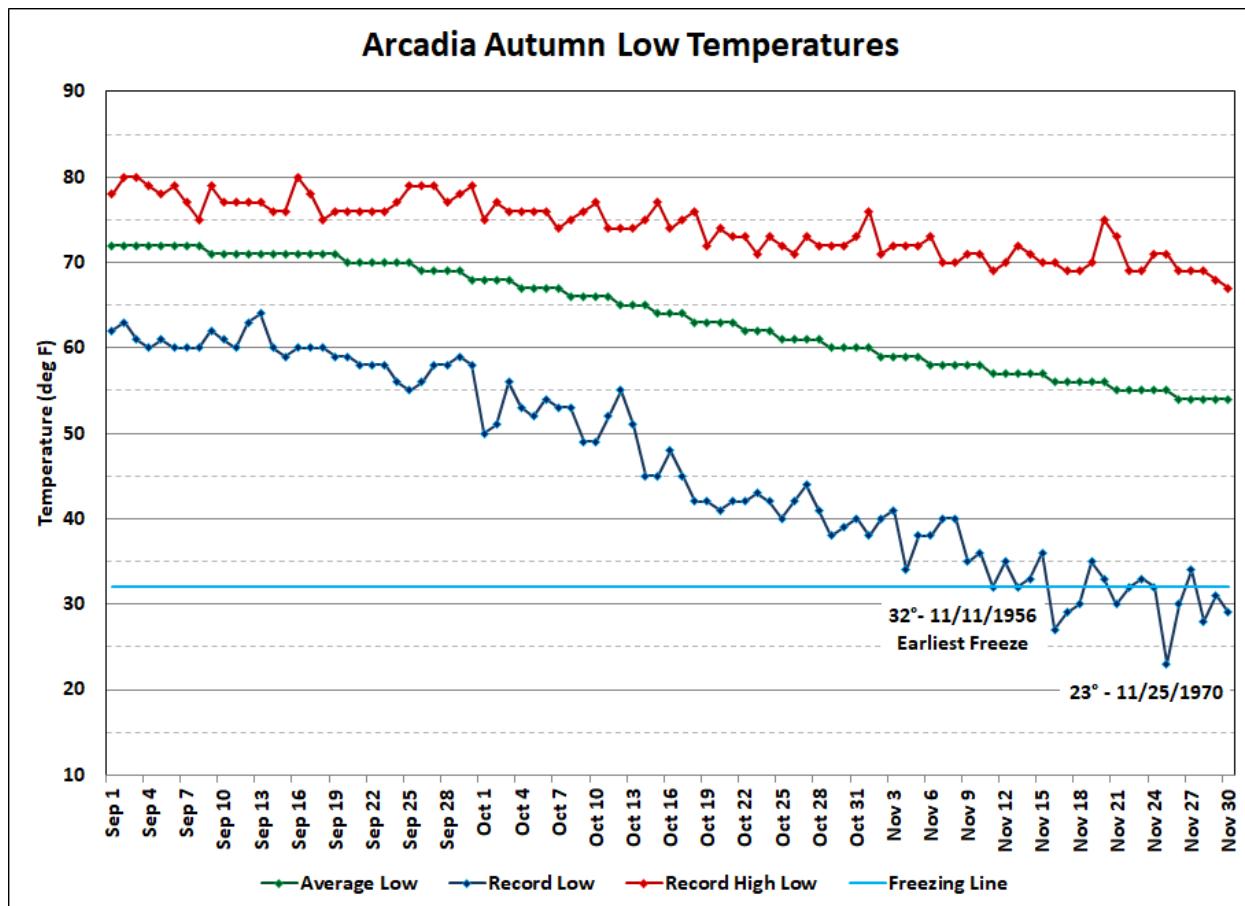


Winter Haven Autumn Low Temperatures

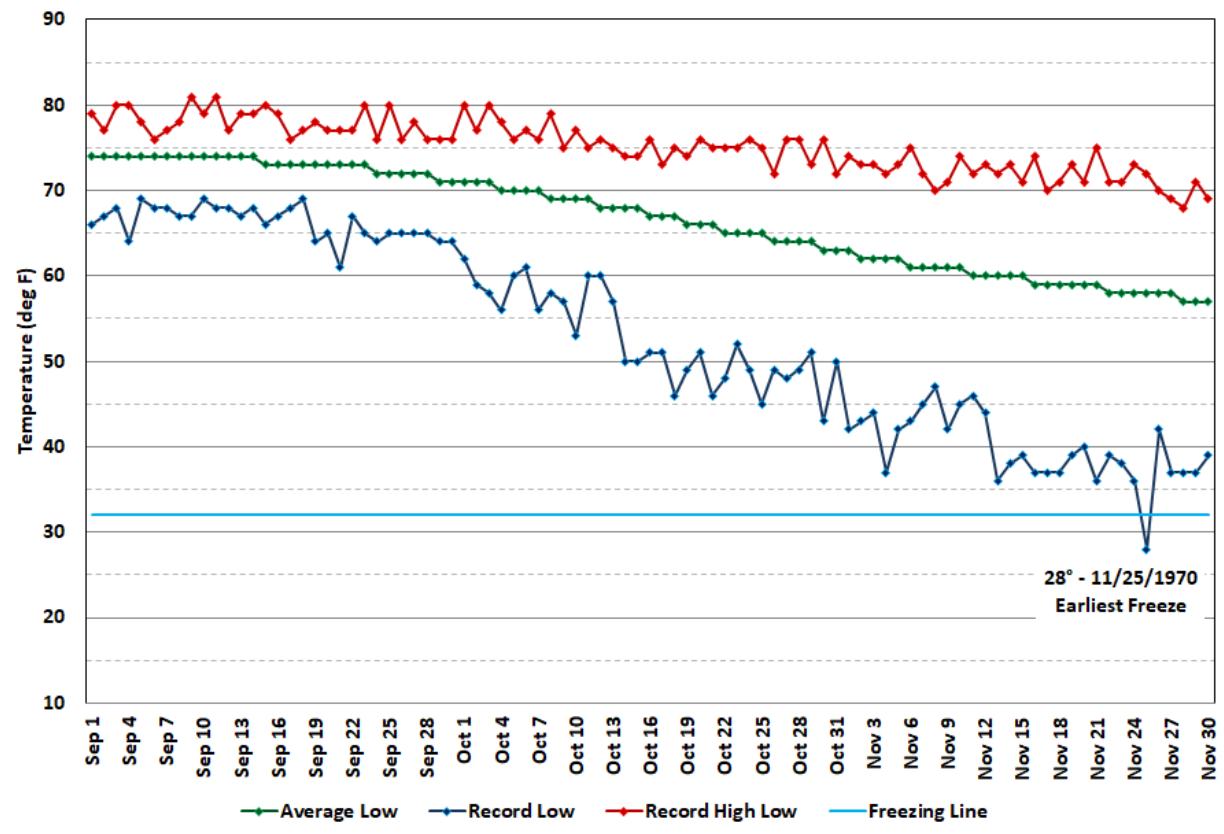


Sarasota-Bradenton Autumn Low Temperatures

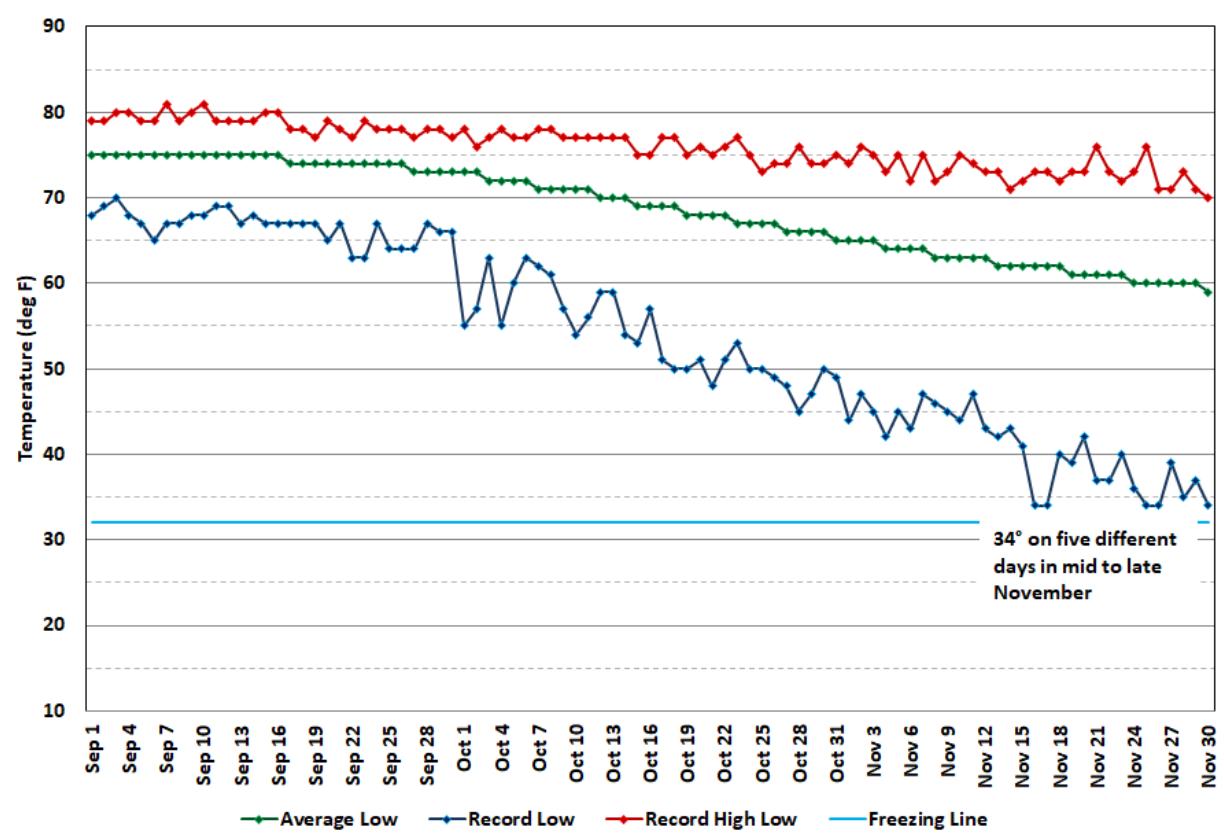




Punta Gorda 4 ESE Autumn Low Temperatures



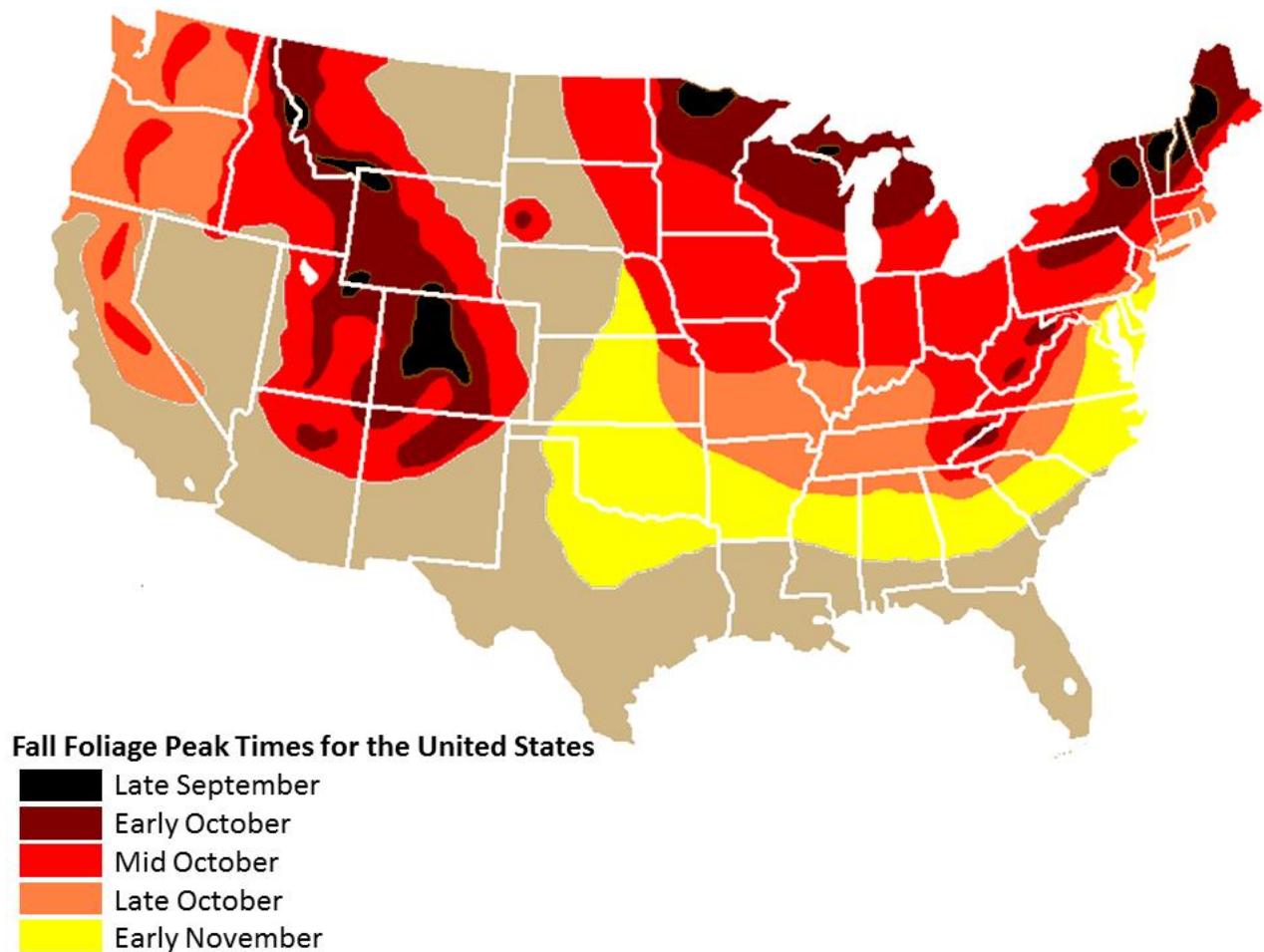
Fort Myers Autumn Low Temperatures



As a side note, for those who miss or would like to see where the foliage has begun to change color across the United States, visit the USDA Forest Service web site listed below.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fallcolors/2017/>

And for an idea of the approximate time of peak fall foliage see the image below:



For more local climate information, visit our web site at

<http://weather.gov/tampabay>

and go to the Climate and Past Weather drop down menu above the weather forecast graphics.